

ABSTRACT

An identification card, typically of the proximity type, having on its outer structure a numeric keyboard. When approaching a high security entrance, the user enters into the card a PIN code known only to himself or a few others. The PIN code entry is compared to a reference code within the card and if correct enables the logic system of the card. When the card is next placed in proximity to a reader antenna, a normal read occurs, that is the data of the card is transferred to the reader. The card acts as a data source. Identification data is transferred during the read action, and also financial transactions, and an emergency code if the user is under duress and requests emergency help. The data sent to the reader is also optionally sent to a higher order data processing system such as a central computer. In a second embodiment, the proximity circuits and antenna are made integral to a hand held palm top or lap top computer or cell phone. Thus, the computer or cell phone also serves as an identification device. The security system which reads the card is also able to transfer complex data to a central point. The PIN code entry expires after a brief time interval, so that each use of the card requires re-entry of the PIN code. The reader can be attached to a firearm, causing a safety latch to be released, based upon a signal generated by the identification card and received by the reader. Alternatively, the identification card can be directly inserted into the reader.